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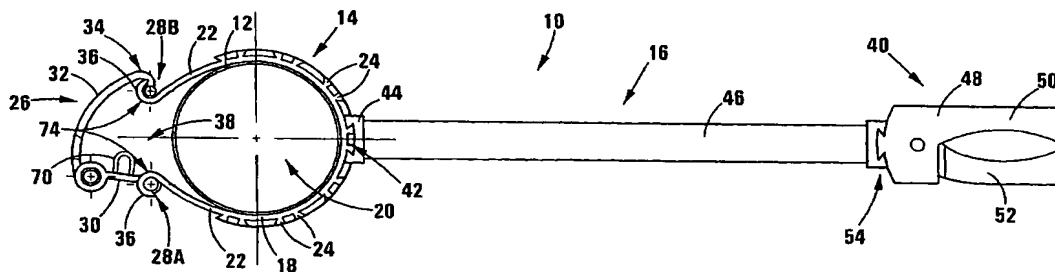
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(54) Title: SYSTEM AND CLAMP FOR SUPPORTING ARTICLES



(57) Abstract: A system (10) is provided for supporting articles on a support structure comprising a number of poles (12). A number of clamps (14) are releasably attachable to the poles (12) and a number of article support formations (16) are attachable to the clamps (14), for supporting the articles. Each clamp (14) is attachable to the poles (12) by receiving a pole (12) in a recess (20) defined in a body (18) of the clamp (14), in a clipping fashion. The clamp (14) is held in position on the pole (12) by inwardly resilience of arms (22) of the clamp (14), and by a clasp (26) urging ends (28) of the arms (22) closer together.

AMENDED CLAIMS

[received by the International Bureau on 14 May 2004 (14.05.2004);
original claims 1-18 replaced by new claims 1-13 (4 pages)]

1. A system (10) for supporting at least one article, said system including:

a support structure including at least one elongate element (12);

at least one clamp (14) defining a recess (20), flanked by two resilient arms (22) and being removably attachable to the elongate element (12), the clamp (14) being removably attachable to the elongate element (12) by receiving the elongate element (12) in the recess (20) in a clipping fashion, to be releasably held in position on the elongate element (12) by inwardly resilience of the arms (22); and

an article support formation (16), attachable to the clamp (14), **characterised in that** a plurality of attachment formations (24) are defined on an outer periphery of the clamp (14), to which at least one article support formation (16) is releasably attachable, by receiving the attachment formation (24) in a complementary formation (42), defined on the article support formation (16).

2. A system (10) as claimed in Claim 1, **characterised in that** the attachment formations are in the form of a plurality of ridges (24), defined on the outer periphery of the clamp (14), and in that each article support formation (16) defines a complementary formation in the form of a recess (42), in which the ridges (24) are receivable in a sliding fashion.

3. A system (10) as claimed in Claim 2, **characterised in that** the ridges (24) and the complementary recesses (42) each have a dovetail cross-sectional profile.
4. A system (10) as claimed in Claim 1, **characterised in that** at least one elongate element has a non-round cross-sectional profile and a number of element engagement formations (56) with varying profiles, are provided on the inner periphery of the clamp recess (20), to engage the cross-sectional periphery of the non-round elongate element (12), resiliently.
5. A system (10) as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the clamp (14) includes a catch (26), attachable to ends (28) of the two arms (22) and configured to exert an inward bias on the ends (28) of the arms (22), to urge them closer together and thereby assist in holding the elongate element (12) in position within the recess (20), **characterised in that** the catch (26) includes a main part (32), pivotally attachable to one arm (22) of the clamp (14), and a linkage part (30), pivotally attachable to the end (28) of the other arm (22) of the clamp (14), the main part (32) and linkage part (30) being pivotally connected, so that the catch (26) can operate in an over-centred configuration, in which the main part (32) and linkage part (30) can be oriented at a large angle relative to each other, when the catch (26) is in a free condition, and wherein the main part (32) and linkage part (30) can be oriented at a small angle relative to each other, when the catch (26) is in a gripping condition, with a resilient bias of the main part (30) retaining the catch (26) in the gripping condition.

6. A system (10) as claimed in Claim 1, **characterised in that** the support formation (16) defines at least one article engagement formation (40) which includes a container (60) defining a recess (61), for supporting an article.
7. A system (10) as claimed in Claim 1, **characterised in that** the support formation (16) defines at least one article engagement formation (40) which includes a clamp (48) for supporting an article by clinching it between jaws (50,52) of the clamp (48).
8. A system (10) as claimed in Claim 1, characterised in that the article support formation (16) defines more than one complementary formations (42,54), that are spaced apart and that are simultaneously attachable to attachment formations (24) of more than one spaced apart clamp (14).
9. A system as claimed in Claim 1, **characterised in that** it includes a light fitting (62), attachable to the clamp (14).
10. A clamp (14) that is attachable to an elongate element (12) and to which an article support formation (16) is attachable according to Claim 1, the clamp (14) defining a recess (20) flanked by two resilient arms (22) so that the elongate element (12) can be received in the recess (20) in a clipping fashion, to be releasably held in position by the inwardly resilience of the arms (22),

characterised in that a plurality of attachment formations (24) are defined on an outer periphery of the clamp (14), to which at least one article support formation (16) is releasably attachable, by receiving the attachment formation (24) in a complementary formation (42), defined on the article support formation (16).

11. A system (10) as claimed in Claim 1, substantially as herein described and illustrated.

12. A clamp (14) as claimed in Claim 10, substantially as herein described and illustrated.

13. A new support system or a new clamp, substantially as herein described.

The applicant submits replacement claims sheets 12 to 15, herewith, including amended claims 1 to 12, which contain the following:

- a) Amended claim 1 includes the features of former claims 1 and 8 and has been limited to a "plurality" of attachment formations, as described in lines 8 to 10 on page 6 of the specification and as can be seen in Figures 1 to 7 of the drawings.
- b) Amended claims 2 to 9 all depend on amended claim 1 and each include the following characterising parts:
 - Amended claim 2 includes the characterising part of former claim 9.
 - Amended claim 3 includes the characterising part of former claim 10.
 - Amended claim 4 includes a combination of the characterising parts of former claims 2 and 3 and is limited to engagement formations for "non-round" elongate elements, as described in lines 5 to 9 on page 9 of the specification and as can be seen in Figure 2 of the drawings.
 - Amended claim 5 includes the characterising parts of former claims 5 and 6.
 - Amended claim 6 includes the characterising parts of former claims 7 and 11.
 - Amended claim 7 includes the characterising parts of former claims 7 and 13 and is limited to the feature of "clinging" articles between the jaws of the clamp, and described in lines 10 to 13 on page 8 of the specification and as can be seen in Figures 1, 2 and 4 of the drawings.
 - Amended claim 8 includes the characterising part of former claim 14.
 - Amended claim 9 includes the characterising feature of an article support formation with more than one complementary formations, as described in

lines 5 to 9, 13 and 14 on page 8 of the specification and as can be seen in Figures 1, 2 and 4 to 7 of the drawings.

- c) Amended claim 10 is based on former claim 15 but has been clarified by adding features of former claim 1 and the characterising part of former claim 8.
- d) Amended claims 11 to 13 are based on former claims 16 to 18, which are so-called "omnibus claims" and which the applicant shall consider deleting on a country-by-country basis during the national phase.